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The legless bodies, headless trunks, wounded, that had lain all night in the rain and moaning for aid—all these would have kept sleep from me a year ago, but one has to go without sleep for five days but once to know how easy and under what untoward conditions it can come when given a chance. A shell exploding near means nothing in my young life any more; in fact, death itself has become even commonplace, and courage was not involved, but merely a passionless state of inertia that meant merely "Let come what will." The nights were awful on this road. Way down we went the next morning through a town and back to the rear; this town contained water for one thing, and that meant life itself to us, and the Germans, knowing this, shelled it continuously. I marched down it munching on corned beef, while looking at the results of shrapnel firing, to let you know the change that had been wrought in me. Burial parties were many and the ceremonies nix. War can never offer romance for me again; we had one killed and four wounded getting out, and then three days and three nights of marching in our pitiful condition to the rest billets, from which I am writing. Nine out of ten of the remaining men we had were sick from exposure and no words can describe the horrors of this march as they crawled and staggered along and fell. It is needless for me to attempt to write it, but some day I might tell you of it all, for last night, well-founded rumors and much jubilation were evident around here among the French due to accepted peace terms by the Germans.

Best wishes and good luck to all.

HARRY.

JOINING THE ISSUE

BARNUM MUSEUM,
TUFTS COLLEGE P. O., MASS., NOV. 21, 1918.

To the Editor.

SIR: I have been much pleased with the tone of many of your editorials of late, and especially with the November number. There is just one point that I think it would be well to emphasize more strongly.

In the plea for a governed world you recognize the fundamental rights of man and the duty on the part of all nations to recognize them. At the time of the Peace Conference no doubt all the delegates will sincerely guarantee on behalf of their respective States that these rights shall be observed. Yet experience has shown that such guarantees are worthless without some tribunal which has the right and duty to enforce them. Moreover, it is well known by every geographer that it is not possible to so rearrange the map of Europe that there will not be minorities of antagonistic races to be protected in the various new States. Polish Jews and Catholics will be combined in New Poland; masses of Germans will be surrounded by Rumanians in Transylvania. The towns of Macedonia are made up of Greeks and Jews, while the country districts are Bulgarian and Serbian, Vlach and Albanian.

The experience of the promises of Turkey regarding her Christian population, or the treatment of the Jews by Rumania, after their proper treatment had been made part of the condition of her independence, show what may happen.

Our own experience with Cuba should warn us that internal misgovernment will as inevitably become an inter-

national question as one rotten apple will infect a barrel. It is therefore important that whatever guarantees may be given at Versailles should be enforceable by a tribunal to which not only the nations could appeal, but also citizens within those nations who believe themselves not to be treated in accord with the principles laid down, or to be deprived of the "fundamental rights" of man.

Very respectfully yours,

ALFRED C. LANE.

BOSTON, 17th October, 1918.

DEAR MR. CALL: You will permit me to express my great satisfaction at the manner in which the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* is now edited. The articles in the last number are admirable, and I have nowhere seen an argument for the Fourth Liberty Loan stated better. You represent the real pacifists of the country, and we are grateful to you for the manner in which you do it.

Yours truly,

MOORFIELD STOREY.

SANTA BARBARA, CAL., NOV. 18, 1918.

DEAR MR. CALL: Congratulations—that the End has come!—and that the *ADVOCATE* has been so admirably edited during the war!

LUCY S. PATRICK.

BOOK REVIEWS

Books listed here may be obtained, postage prepaid, upon remittance to American Peace Society, 613 Colorado Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Stakes of the War. Summary of the Various Problems, Claims, and Interests of the Nations at the Peace Table. By *Lothrop Stoddard and Glenn Frank*. The Century Co., New York City. 346 pages, with appendix and with topical bibliographies.

The effort of these compilers has been to be neutral and to reduce to a minimum their opinions as to what ought to be done at the Peace Conference. In a succinct, well ordered, and, as far as possible, up-to-date way, they have taken each country that is likely to have its national boundaries altered by negotiations, and they have given a history, economic survey, and description of past political relations of each nation with its neighbors. Political, racial, cultural, and religious facts are specifically provided in each case. Thus, in the case of Belgium it is made clear just what Great Britain, France, Holland, and Germany formerly deemed to be necessary as a national policy toward the State, with its Flemish and Walloon populations. Then follows a statement of solutions that have been proposed and what they mean. History has been made in such a whirlwind and overturning way since the book was issued in the summer that some of it is irrelevant in the light of what are accomplished facts; but on the whole it still may be most useful to the layman who plans to follow events during the era of reconstruction on which the peoples and the governments already have entered.

Federal Military Pensions in the United States. By *William H. Glasson*. Oxford University Press, New York, London, Toronto, Melbourne, and Bombay. 280 pages, with appendix giving War Insurance Law of October 6, 1917, and also a bibliographical note.

This volume, which is sent forth with the Division of Economics and History of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as its sponsor, is a timely document. For even now the Treasury Department is finding it necessary to send broadcast a warning against efforts of "men who prey" to circumvent the provisions of the law enacted by Congress to safeguard the interests of persons eligible to benefit by the carefully framed law of October 6, 1917, and its amendments; and already the War Risk Insurance Bureau, which administers this law, has abundant proof of frauds that designing persons are willing to compass at all times when the nation, moved by fine motives, tries to aid combatants and their dependents.

The story which Professor Glasson has to tell in this monograph is, as the editor of the series—Prof. David Kinley—sums it up, “both heartening and depressing.” The evils that have followed each of the wars that the United States has fought have been due primarily not to the donors nor to the beneficiaries, but to the parasitic class of men who batten on the latter. It was to preclude any such record following the war just fought that drafting of the War Insurance Law of 1917 was put in the hands of persons likely to take a disinterested view of the matter and be informed as to the record of the past.

In the main American pension practice has followed the British theory of dealing with invalided warriors for national causes; and the theory and practice took root as early as 1624 in the colonies. But with the Revolution and the pensions following it there came a distinct alignment hostile on the whole to distinctions as between privates and officers on the issue of service pensions; and the differentiation registers a current of feeling among the masses that was then colored by fear of creation of a distinct military caste, and that has not been materially modified to this day. But with a full and overflowing treasury, President Monroe in 1817 gave the necessary executive push that led Congress to set up service pensions as applied to soldiers in the Revolution, and there never has been a war since when such laws, more or less limited, have not been passed.

Summing up the ultimate consequences of the pension legislation for soldiers of the Revolution, Professor Glasson says that “it should have furnished much valuable guidance and warning in the framing and administration of Civil War pensions, but as a matter of fact this early experience was practically ignored.” The experience of the country with the Civil War Pension acts was not ignored when Congress faced the war recently fought and won; but the important point never to be lost sight of by patriots now is whether the sounder and more scientific system which has been created for the present day will be protected by public opinion and by later congresses from the insidious attacks of politicians, designing middle-men, unscrupulous lawyers, and persons all of whose motives and deeds are egoistic.

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